

Interviewer: Testing. Testing. One, two, three.

Grant Howard: [Inaudible].

Red Poole: Yeah.

Grant Howard: [Inaudible].

Red Poole: Well how well you know Hobart _____ ?

Grant Howard: _____ I know. [Laughs] know him a long time. Why?

Red Poole: That's why I asked.

Grant Howard: He's a – he's a _____ kind of guy. [Inaudible] fights for what he believes in.

Red Poole: Well, a lot of people do that. I will too. Always have. What I'm getting at: I'm not sure about this, about Hobart . He could be a perfect gentleman, you know. I never knew him until I came back here. But when we were being tried – I'm not sure about this, but I _____ that period somewhere, That he could have –Logan Meade was a witness but against Jim, and old man _____.

Grant Howard: I hope I know enough, buddy.

Red Poole: How old man is he, old man [crosstalk].

Grant Howard: Younger than _____? Younger than I.

Red Poole: Younger than I am, yeah.

Grant Howard: Oh, [crosstalk] he's not 50 yet. Hoag, I don't think he's not 50 yet (1:24)

Red Poole: Well was it his old man, then.

Grant Howard: Oh, his dad's dead. [Crosstalk] --

Red Poole: I know that too. [crosstalk].

[Extended]

I swear he comes from.

Grant Howard: Yeah?

Red Poole: But I married old Jones' creek, you know. First time I married, 1926, and they were there. But it wasn't his father, it was his uncle. See I told you I didn't know if I was right or not, about Hobart. But now one of them swore that Jim Mills and old man Hightower, but was not *[crosstalk]* and went with me.

Grant Howard: That couldn't have been Hobart – Hobart wasn't in it. Hobart – they shouldn't a killed that man before Hobart _____ worked for the mines (2:19).

Red Poole: Well, *[crosstalk]*.

Grant Howard: He'd just a been a kid when you all was tried.

Red Poole: You *[crosstalk]*.

Grant Howard: I wouldn't *[crosstalk]* let's see --

Red Poole: I knowed you when you was about that high. Okay?

Grant Howard: Yeah. I wasn't but 13, 14 years old when _____ was tried.

Red Poole: Yeah? See I lived at Cardinal when your dad got bit by that snake, and he was the one that got the five, six, seven year old one in there.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: I remember that mighty well. And that was in 1921, '22, over in there somewhere.

Grant Howard: Yeah?

Red Poole: Could have been '23. Could have been '23, I don't know.

Grant Howard: I remember _____ about '24 I guess.

Red Poole: Well in there somewhere. It was *[inaudible]* Logan, right, at Cardinal, when he got bit?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: Snaking logs out at the track.

Grant Howard: *[Inaudible]*.

Red Poole: [Inaudible].

[Crosstalk].

Grant Howard: What do these fellows [inaudible] in this meeting area that led over to the [inaudible] the mines, still could get ____.

Red Poole: [Inaudible]. I've got several letters

[Audio break]

It just so happened that I got the first number, [inaudible] got the next number, Jones and Hightower got the next two numbers, and Dale Hudson and Big Cigar got the next two numbers. I know every one of the numbers. I know from ninety right on up.

Grant Howard: Worked until 1953.

Red Poole: I worked in '53. I don't see [crosstalk] – I worked until '54 there, somewhere there. One of them said '53 and another one said '54. But it was '54, in summer of '54, don't know what month it was, and I got cut off and then called back. And I worked the last night to work – the mines worked: February 28th, 1958. Remember that, don't you?

Grant Howard: I would [inaudible].

Red Poole: Because I was called back from Indiana. I was up there working. I had been, got cut off. In the meantime (5:00) I got called back here. And when they shut down on February the 28th I had drew out the unemployment of one check. She said you could draw that [inaudible] if you think you might get another job up there. Well I said, "I'm going to have to go somewhere." I said, "I could work here and [inaudible]." I know [inaudible].

And everywhere I would go that had an organization they'd say I was too old. But I knew that I could do what I had been doing. You know, one of these big tram motors? I could do that as good as anybody – I could get ____ I guess. I guess. I'm guessing that _____. And – but anywhere that I went I had too much age on me. They didn't want nobody over 35 if you could be helped. That's what they tell you. Well I wasn't going to go across no mountain didn't know what's over there. But that's the first place I was offered a job a guy just comes to me like you friend of mine, supposed to have been.

Well after he said that he wasn't no friend of mine. "Red, that's your job: \$13 and a quarter a day." I said, "What? Hell, I was making more than

that when I quit." I said, "What are you talking about?" He says – over there in – what is that, Leicester County or Lester County or whatever it is?

Grant Howard: Well Leicester County or Paine County where you worked at, over [crosstalk] --

Red Poole: Well over there where that mine blowed up.

Grant Howard: Huh?

Red Poole: Over there [crosstalk] – that Leicester?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: Well Bill Day (6:32) is over in there. You know Bill?

Grant Howard: Mm-hmm.

Red Poole: Well I don't know what this guy's name was; he was _____. The guy told me he said [inaudible]. He said, "Well that's what you get, \$13 and a quarter," I said, "You just said you ain't found none (6:42)." I said, "You can't find nobody besides me you ain't get – you didn't find me." So I wasn't going to cross that mountain for \$20-some-odd a day, not at that time I wasn't, nuh-uh. No, whenever I was a boy, in 1917 and '18 and '19 – my dad died in 1919, April 25th. He was the president of a local at Gravity, Kentucky. You know where that's at?

Grant Howard: Where?

Red Poole: Gravity, Kentucky?

Interviewer: Where is that?

Red Poole: [Inaudible] You don't either, do you? Bill Turnblazer didn't know where it was and he's a two and a half miles away. I don't know where [inaudible]. And he said that he couldn't do nothing. You know damn well he can.

Grant Howard: [Inaudible] they like [inaudible].

Red Poole: [Crosstalk].

Grant Howard: [Inaudible] lie [inaudible].

Red Poole: Somebody did. Well you know Ray Hiace, don't you? That's Al's son, or brother-in-law.

Grant Howard: Yeah?

Red Poole: Al married his sister, uh – yeah, his sister. Well he works in the office, been there 28 years I guess, or 30, 32.

Grant Howard: It's been a long time. *[Inaudible]* went to work.

Red Poole: *[Crosstalk]* that's the only job he ever had that I know of.

Grant Howard: Oh that's from when Bally was president of the local. So he got him that job.

Red Poole: And he got him that job and he still got that job. And he's secretary, of some kind. Well they *[crosstalk]* --

Grant Howard: He's reporting secretary for this *[crosstalk]*.

Red Poole: Well, okay, now his brother-in-law was my _____. Well Al's the first man that got here. That's just what I said there about -- There's none of us had 20 year out of the last 30 without give you the time that you did in the big house, penitentiary. *[Inaudible]* penitentiary. That's where we all were. All right *[crosstalk]* --

Grant Howard: And what she wants to know, you – you did this time --

Red Poole: Yeah.

Grant Howard: -- the cause that you was fighting for, United Mine Workers --

Red Poole: Right.

Grant Howard: -- you was organizing *[crosstalk]*.

Red Poole: Right.

Grant Howard: You was *[inaudible]* living here when they were a company guard for every house wasn't you? *[Crosstalk]* --

Red Poole: I was born out of this Black Mountain.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: I was – I worked over here on north side. I come out March the 17th (9:00) – I'll never forget it, 1931. And I was working there with my first cousin, he's *[crosstalk]* --

Grant Howard: You done served your time and *[crosstalk]* nothing they could do for you, do about it now, I mean – boy I was going to school, going to school in fifth grade when this happened.

Red Poole: You know where I lived at when this happened?

Grant Howard: No.

Red Poole: Well you know the house I did there on ____?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: Second white house, below the bridge?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: I ____ for now. I own that when I first come back out of the big house. That's a house I owned. I married this woman – she owned it and I owned her *[laughter]*.

Grant Howard: *[Laughing]*.

Red Poole: And then we sold that place *[crosstalk]* for \$750 and *[crosstalk]*.

Grant Howard: Now give her a little history on how it was organized. Now you – *[crosstalk]* --

Red Poole: We had the *[crosstalk]* obligation, that's all I can say.

Grant Howard: Well, we fought *[inaudible]* you boys didn't get out of jail like that *[inaudible]*.

[Crosstalk]

Red Poole: Well I was supposed to be in the battle--

Grant Howard: Yeah, you was supposed to have been in-in the battle. That's what you got the life in prison for.

Red Poole: Right.

Grant Howard: And we – [inaudible]. We had the first charter in Harlan County and then – [crosstalk] 4493 was the first charter in Harlan County –

[Crosstalk]

Interviewer: When did you get that charter? [Inaudible]?

Red Poole: Well I guess it been in '32 or '33.

Grant Howard: '33 when they [crosstalk] --

Red Poole: '33.

Grant Howard: '33.

Red Poole: And that was --

Grant Howard: I don't know they might have given the charter now when they first started organizing under Childress. That's when they had the fights, you know.

Red Poole: Yeah, [crosstalk] --

Grant Howard: Old man Childress ordered them to go move that guy in here and one – told Jim Daniels to go with him. And take the men with him and Jim said he cussed the old man Childress and told him, said, "I'm going to make this trip for you; when I get back you can get somebody else in my place."

Red Poole: And he didn't make it.

Grant Howard: He didn't make it.

[Crosstalk]

[Inaudible] for I don't know how long. They made him [crosstalk]

Red Poole: Let's put it this way: that same guy has got that same – his partner is [inaudible] right out there. [Inaudible] black.

Grant Howard: Well he got hit.

Red Poole: Yeah, he got hit right under his eye, right under this cap ____ right there. See that's a bone.

Interviewer: What did he get hit by?

Red Poole: Shotgun. And they filled it with slugs, so they say. Now nobody didn't see that, but it – something happened like that. But that's what they said. And --

Grant Howard: Matt told me Jim was coming over [inaudible] bank, _____ and looked over there and say he had [crosstalk] --

Red Poole: Jim dropped in the middle of the road; that's where they picked him up at, out in the middle of the road, for a while 'cause I was at the pickup zone too I tell you, who will verify what I'm going to say. You know Joe Pridemore?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: We lost one man in the battle, right?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: Okay. Me, and Martin Hurd, who's he – you know him?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: The nigger.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: And Earl Brock, both of them's dead now.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: And me – Earl Brock is a turnkey in Harlan, and he's a deputy sheriff too. Now he come up there and Martin Hurd was there and I was there and they picked up Slocum, that's his nickname, Carl Richardson, right?

Grant Howard: Yeah. Yeah.

Red Poole: That's the boy got killed.

Grant Howard: Yeah, [crosstalk].

Red Poole: That's the only miner that got killed. The rest of them was _____.

Grant Howard: He wouldn't have got killed. He was the one that down the road and flagged the – flagged the caravan down and [crosstalk] --

Red Poole: No. No. You're mistaken. It was another guy done that. He raised up a _____ – close to that -- there was a tree there, about that big around. And he supposed to have been behind but he got over-anxious, like you say, and he stepped out from behind the tree. And he – he shoots backwards, so _____. I shoot this way, [crosstalk]. And he had a rifle that he shoots this way. And listen, I went and looked at him and I know: the bullet went in right there, that spot there. And _____ out here. And if he could have reached around this way he couldn't have hardly reached where it come out, you know [crosstalk] --

Interviewer: Ugh!

Grant Howard: Was it explosive bullets?

Red Poole: Yeah. I looked at him. He was laying on the morgue there. What was that guy's name, Wilson, that had that morgue down over there?

Grant Howard: Yeah, yeah, yeah, [crosstalk].

Red Poole: Where the post office is now. Same building.

Grant Howard: Yeah, same building, yeah.

Red Poole: Well, a shotgun –Bill Greene [inaudible] coming around there on the street and he said, "Hell, your [inaudible]." I looked funny at him – he looked funny, he sounded funny. Because me and this guy _____. The only difference back then: I wore a cap and he wore a hat. And when I come back out of the big house I went to where [inaudible]. Now I wore a cap [laughter].

Grant Howard: [Crosstalk] back out of school [laughs].

Red Poole: Well see they don't wear no hat down there. They give you a cap, see?

Interviewer: He lived through that?

Red Poole: Huh?

Interviewer: He lived through that?

Red Poole: No, he didn't live through that.

[Crosstalk]

No, I say that's the one we lost, the only miner that was lost.
[Crosstalk] –Several lost their home, had to go down there.

Grant Howard: Well he got to the schoolhouse after the shooting was all over with.

Red Poole: Who?

Grant Howard: Joe. Joe Pagley.

Red Poole: Joe wasn't even --

Grant Howard: He wasn't in it. But I know he -- he got the schoolhouse -- he come to the schoolhouse --

Red Poole: [Crosstalk] Joe didn't have nothing to do with that [inaudible]. I know [inaudible] you don't show me -- you see [inaudible]. And he got [inaudible]. I think this guy's _____ but I don't know. Yeah, I know he is. And he's into it just as much as anybody else but that means he never been mentioned and he'll ain't never be mentioned. And I know it, but nobody else knows it. And then [inaudible].

Grant Howard: [Laughter].

Red Poole: See I know this.

Grant Howard: Well see what you did they went through all this then?

Interviewer: Yeah?

Grant Howard: Yeah, I mean we went through hell. That was just one battle. I mean there was six battles in this county.

Red Poole: Oh yeah, big ones.

Grant Howard: There were six battles in this county. There's five battles that [inaudible].

Red Poole: Yeah, this is the biggest.

Interviewer: When was the one you were fighting in?

Grant Howard: '31.

Red Poole: April – I mean May the 5th, 1931.

Interviewer: That was what's called the Battle of Evarts?

Red Poole: Yeah.

Grant Howard: The Battle of Evarts.

Red Poole: Yeah, that's the name of it.

Grant Howard: Battle of Evarts.

Red Poole: There's a book – I always tried to get a hold of the book *[inaudible]* – my buddy's got it, he *[inaudible]*.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Interviewer: What's that?

Red Poole: My picture's in there, and *[crosstalk]* --

Interviewer: Oh yeah?

Red Poole: All of us.

Interviewer: Well what is that book?

Red Poole: *The Battle of Evarts* – the book.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Red Poole: Book _____. And I'll tell you where you can find another book – you're not supposed to _____ get it, but _____ Polk County – forgot the name of it – before you can go and put in for it, you know, _____ the kind of a book that you hear about, you know, somebody took out a book and then --

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: -- you want to get in contact with them and you can't find out exactly where they're at but they's always got a store around somewhere that – it's not called a store --

Interviewer: It's a book finders *[crosstalk]* book?

Red Poole: Something like that. But they got one there in Lexington and this book is there.

Interviewer: What's it called, do you know?

Red Poole: *Bloody Harlan* is one of them, then there's a green-back book; I don't know what they called it. I forgot he -- well that's the story of -- part of the story of all of us, like me, you, him -- there's seven of us -- and there's part of the story about the evidence that went in again us, and for us, you know?

Grant Howard: They didn't prove none of you was in it.

Red Poole: No. They didn't prove --

Grant Howard: See that's why I said to her -- back operator *[inaudible]*. And they didn't have a bit of evidence on him -- none of the boys is *[crosstalk]*. They didn't have evidence enough. But everything was *[crosstalk]* --

Red Poole: It was manufactured, you know?

Grant Howard: Everything was stacked against the miners and they just railroaded them, see? Just railroaded them --

Red Poole: Well see I was acquitted the first -- June 1st _____. For killing _____. *[Inaudible]*. And then they tried to get _____ Jones and I got a life sentence. But now I never was tried for killing Otto Lee.

Interviewer: Was this a jury trial you had?

Red Poole: Yeah, *[crosstalk]* --

Interviewer: And then they picked the jury?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: Yeah. They *[crosstalk]* the jury: 50 men, and then they picked 13 men out of 50; that 13th man don't act. That -- one of them gets sick, and he has to go back over, call away, said death or sickness in his family. But he can go out and -- this 13th man then sets over in his place, and he's done heard all the evidence so you don't have to go over all this stuff again, see? There was 132 witnesses in my case. Now you know damn well that there was not many people seen at -- at that time of day.

Grant Howard: No [crosstalk] out there in that road – I was telling her, after the Wagner Act was passed --

Red Poole: Yeah?

Grant Howard: That's – that was [crosstalk] after his time. The Wagner Act was – it was passed in '35 or '36 --

Red Poole: That's why we was up there.

Grant Howard: Well, operators were resisting strong. And of course after the law was made and enacted and become a law they still resisted. They got them all indicted and then [inaudible]. Then the law _____ -- that's when _____ and Whitfields and all of them just – just buckled under. And while they was down there – I don't reckon they ever come to trial. If they did they come to some kind of agreement that you know, they agreed to go ahead and recognize the union providing they turned them loose. But before this thing happened how many – there was three or four or five of guns _____ was killed right down there with – killed one another. [Crosstalk] they were found dead. Found – what's that White's name?

Red Poole: Frank?

Grant Howard: Frank White.

Interviewer: The gunfights were killing each other? So they wouldn't [crosstalk] --

Grant Howard: Yeah, [crosstalk] --

Red Poole: This one was telling something on that one, and that one tells something on the other and – go ahead, you just shoot each other like that.

Grant Howard: It took more _____ killed them [inaudible] – the mountain – what you call that? Some kind of a rock.

Red Poole: River Rock.

Grant Howard: Yep.

Red Poole: Take them up there, [inaudible] up there you know, big rock – hell, that was an alibi: get him up there.

Grant Howard: [Laughs].

Red Poole: He just missed up there, see?

Grant Howard: There you go get a look --

Red Poole: [Inaudible]?

Grant Howard: No -- well, I forgot his name.

Red Poole: Luke Hubbard?

Grant Howard: Luke Hubbard, yeah.

Red Poole: Luke and Lee?

Grant Howard: They was going to kill Luke, see? I mean they had -- they had Luke's number, I mean [inaudible] put out a contract [crosstalk]. They didn't put out a contract on Luke. Three of them went to Luke's house to kill him; his wife went to the window and peeked out and seen the -- see what was coming off; Luke slipped around the house and [laughs] with a shotgun.

Red Poole: He killed two.

Grant Howard: All three of them, didn't he?

Red Poole: No, just two.

Grant Howard: No, he got three of them, didn't he?

Red Poole: I think somebody else got the other one. I'm thinking Luke got just two.

Grant Howard: Well maybe _____ -- the way it was I thought -- maybe it was just two. I thought it's three he killed.

Red Poole: Yeah, no he got two.

Grant Howard: After that then organizing got to be pretty smooth -- they went in and organized the whole county. [Crosstalk] we had a big fight over in Coventry, [crosstalk] got killed over there.

Interviewer: You want to tell me where the gunfights came from? Did they come from out of the county?

Grant Howard: [Inaudible].

Red Poole: [Inaudible] where the battle was.

Grant Howard: That's [inaudible].

Red Poole: Just above that tip was where they got killed.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: But 1,000 yard above there. Now [crosstalk] --

Interviewer: You know what? I'm going to go put the windows up on my car.

Red Poole: Yeah?

Interviewer: Because doesn't it look like it's going to thunderstorm right there?

Red Poole: Oh, might be a little storm.

Interviewer: Yeah? I'm going to go do it.

Grant Howard: It's [inaudible] job. Because I'm always reaching out to things that I know damn well going to be hard to do.

Red Poole: That's right.

Grant Howard: But by God we can beat Tony Ball, get this outfit in. It's going to -- the -- satisfaction [inaudible].

Red Poole: Oh yeah, me and you both. Either way I can get the _____ now.

Grant Howard: Not them.

Red Poole: They done turned me down, you see.

Grant Howard: But this guy -- I said right on the stage down there that he wants [inaudible]. Of course you know the three men -- they made the provisions in the will for _____ .

Red Poole: Yeah.

Grant Howard: Well here he wants to go back there and pick up these old men that's been knocked out of their pension. I _____ you can do it.

Red Poole: Well I don't know what the hell I could tell them to help me. Only I just went through all this.

Grant Howard: Yeah?

Red Poole: And was convicted.

Grant Howard: Well she's talking to everybody. I mean she's talking – she's more like _____. She's trying to figure – get a hold of some shred of evidence or proof or something or other that would help get her vote from – from _____ for – for that president. President. And that's her sole purpose of being down here is to get the history of this union -- and now if he's elected, why if he knows a lot of the history of this county he's surprising there. See folks _____ was afraid to come down here. He was afraid to come down here.

Red Poole: Well I always – this fellow _____, they told me not to come back in this camp, you know, same guy that got killed [*inaudible*]. They told me not to come back here, right there on this western porch, where the _____ right there.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: I said, "Listen," I said, "This is where I did work." [*Inaudible*] the last few days before he got killed. Well that's – I guess most of the month. I lived in Red Bud, just like I told you. Same house, I owned. At that time, when I was living at Red Bud my uncle lived there, Uncle Jim. And you know Uncle Jim Austin?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: That's my mother's brother.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: Well now he lived right there 13 years, in that same house.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: And I was staying with him, boarding there. And he said [*inaudible*]. I was going with a woman right there in his camp. I wasn't married then, see. And old Ed was there every night see. If I didn't come in here to the car. I thought – right there on Red Bud Hill, in that way, all right, from up down there close to the hospital, and go across. Walked up that way. Now I [*crosstalk*] I didn't miss.

Grant Howard: [Laughs]. [Inaudible] ain't going to keep you [crosstalk].

Interviewer: One kind of courting and another kind of courting [laughter].

Red Poole: Well in the first place she didn't scare me, but – you know, I just didn't want no trouble. And there was ways of getting in there without seeing him. I didn't ask about him getting no damn ____ [laughter]. You know exactly the way I felt about it, too.

Grant Howard: [Inaudible] You know anybody she can talk to, you might give her a little history of the – I give her all I know ____ but I know only half of it, what happened in this county here that the union went down.

Red Poole: Well that's about all I can say is --

Grant Howard: I mean the times [inaudible], the operators are pinched and they had to shut down. Well when they shut down the men was out of work, out of work a year, well they take your welfare card away if you didn't have no income. It's like Red said, you either have to go back and [inaudible] and go to work, or leave the county or do something to make a living.

Red Poole: I left the state. I went up [inaudible]. I couldn't find no work. Everywhere I went I was too old to go back in the mines.

Grant Howard: And then the next thing come around after these other mines went back to work was southern labor come in here and organized.

Interviewer: But this was after World War Two that most union [crosstalk] went down around here?

Red Poole: Mm-hmm.

Grant Howard: Oh the union was strong – strongest our union was in 1947. We had a real strong [crosstalk] --

Red Poole: See, '31's when we was trying to organize, '31, '32, '33 along in there, see. And then I come back here; everything was done settled then.

Interviewer: Back '41 then?

Red Poole: Yeah, back in '43 is when I come back here.

Interviewer: You came here in '43?

Red Poole: Yeah, I couldn't come back here for a year after I got out. I was barred from here for a year.

Grant Howard: Come back they run a motor here --

Red Poole: [Crosstalk]. I run the biggest motor they had, 17-ton _____, the biggest one they had.

Grant Howard: You run the Atlas?

Red Poole: No, the [inaudible].

Grant Howard: That's what I mean, that big [crosstalk].

Red Poole: That wasn't no Atlas, that's a Westinghouse.

Grant Howard: Westinghouse, that's [crosstalk] --

Red Poole: That's the biggest motor that's ever been in this hollow.

Grant Howard: Yeah?

Red Poole: Yeah. They got one or two that's [inaudible].

Interviewer: Now was there any union in here in the '20s?

Red Poole: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: That's what I thought.

Red Poole: Yeah. I belonged to it.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Red Poole: Right here. It's the same place.

Grant Howard: What, now, that seems like that --

Red Poole: What was the union name?

Interviewer: Did you ever heard of this thing called the National Miners Union? You never heard of them?

Red Poole: Not here. United Mine Workers is all I know here.

Interviewer: See, what I heard, what I read, and I'll just ask you about because I don't know whether it's true in the book, it said that the UMW, in summer of 1931, after the Battle of Evarts, you know, and it ended July-August, by that time the UMW had turned around on the guys who were striking here, sold them out. And at that time a lot of guys went and joined the National Miners Union, which is another union which is active at that time. But you don't remember that?

[Crosstalk]

Red Poole: -- the time you're speaking of right there. Well a lot of trouble happened in '31, you know.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Red Poole: May the 5th.

Grant Howard: Only thing I can think of, that that was any organizations
[crosstalk] --

Red Poole: *[Crosstalk]* when I was in jail there somebody tried to come in here was *[inaudible]* I heard that old man and them officers talking about it, what was it, some kind of union tried to *[inaudible]*.

Grant Howard: *[Crosstalk]*.

Red Poole: No, remember that time they killed them 26 men?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: Yeah, well he was up there. *[Inaudible]* my brother and ____ old man ____'s girl, Marie?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: Hubert's dead now, and his brother is. He married her. And that old man -- I don't know what his first name was -- *[crosstalk]* --

Grant Howard: Was that Liverhead?

Red Poole: No, Hubert. No Liverhead married a Dunaway.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: Kurt Cars married his sister.

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: You know Kurt?

Grant Howard: Yeah.

Red Poole: And Liverhead I guess had a sister. He's dead too.

Grant Howard: Liverhead's dead?

Red Poole: Yeah. My mom died October last year; Hubert died next month, September; Harry died in January, brother-in-law died in same month, the end of it. And then my sister, _____ sister, less than ten months. Five of them: two brothers, mother and a sister, and brother-in-law. That's last year.

Interviewer: Now Grant was saying that the IWW was active around here. Did you know anything about that?

Red Poole: No, I heard about it. That was – Industrial Workers of the World – yeah, I knew that. I seen a lot of pamphlets while I was in jail, coming around there, every now and then throw somebody in there and *[inaudible]*. Pamphlets – yeah, I remember seeing *[crosstalk]* -

Grant Howard: Give out money and – tobacco, stuff like that.

Red Poole: Yeah, yeah. Writing paper, envelopes, stamps.

Interviewer: Do you know what they believed?

Red Poole: *[Inaudible]* about it. United Mine Workers was me and that was it. See, my old man was the president of the local when he died in 1919 and I was brought up that way, and I don't believe in nothing else. That's *[crosstalk]*.

Interviewer: Do you know when the union came in here in the – I heard it was 1897, something like that. But I don't know whether that's --

Red Poole: No, if it did I wasn't here.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Red Poole: That's before I was born, you see? I was born in 1905. But I never heard of _____ year. 1917, Middlesboro yeah.

Interviewer: 1917 in Middlesboro.

Red Poole: Yeah, in '18 and '19 because my dad was president of the local when he died.

Interviewer: Did he work as an organizer? Did he help [crosstalk] organize?

Red Poole: No. No.

Grant Howard: First carload of coal [inaudible] out of the county in 1906; it couldn't have been here before then.

Interviewer: I want to know where they got that.

Grant Howard: First carload of coal was out of this county in 1906.

Red Poole: [Crosstalk] anybody tells you you can say, well, I got news for: 1906 the first car of coal that came out of there [crosstalk] --

Interviewer: Yeah? You know, that must have been confused because I guess they organized the first --

Red Poole: Couldn't have been [inaudible] because there wasn't no railroad up here.

Interviewer: Must not have been Harlan County, it must have been [crosstalk] --

Grant Howard: [Crosstalk] '26.

Interviewer: Must have been [crosstalk] --

Red Poole: '22.

Grant Howard: '22.

Red Poole: Yeah, '22 [crosstalk] --

Grant Howard: [Crosstalk] --

Red Poole: -- '23, '24, Hal Benson beat my brother-in-law out of the treasurer -- my brother-in-law was the financial secretary --

Grant Howard: Yeah?

Red Poole: -- took in all the money, _____ right.

Grant Howard: Yeah?

Red Poole: He had a book that he could write checks, _____ in there. He'd write so much this time so much next time. When he got in a poker game – you remember that, don't you?

Grant Howard: No.

[End of Audio]